

Studies of Jet Quenching in PbPb collisions at CMS

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Abstract. Jets are an important tool to probe the hot, dense medium produced in ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collisions. At the collision energies available at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), there is copious production of hard processes, such that high p_T jets may be differentiated from the heavy-ion underlying event. The multipurpose Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector is well designed to measure hard scattering processes with its high quality calorimeters and high precision silicon tracker [1]. Jet quenching has been studied in CMS in PbPb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV. As a function of centrality, dijet events with a high p_T leading jet were found to have an increasing momentum imbalance that was significantly larger than predicted by simulations. The angular distribution of jet fragmentation products has been explored by associating charged tracks with the jets measured in the calorimeters. By projecting the momenta of charged tracks onto the leading jet axis it is shown that the apparent momentum imbalance of the leading dijet pair can be recovered if low p_T tracks are considered. A large fraction of the balancing momentum carried by these soft particles is radiated at large angle relative to the jets.

Jets associated with the hard scattering of partons are a powerful probe of the hot, dense matter created in heavy-ion collisions, which is believed to be a Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP). Previous data, mostly in the form of single and di-hadron observables show that jets are strongly modified by the medium, a phenomenon known as jet quenching [2]. The large PbPb collision energies at the LHC provide an abundance of jets of $p_T > 100$ GeV/c, facilitating the direct reconstruction of jets. We review recent studies of jet quenching in PbPb collisions at a nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV collected in 2010 using the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. The results presented in these proceedings are a subset of those found in [3].

Jets are reconstructed from the energy deposited in the lead-tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) and the brass/scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL) covering $|\eta| < 3$. The steel/quartz-fiber Cherenkov Hadron Forward (HF) calorimeter, covering $3 < |\eta| < 5.2$ is used for centrality determination. Calorimeter cells are grouped into towers of granularity $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\varphi = 0.087 \times 0.087$ in the barrel region ($|\eta| < 1.5$), and a somewhat coarser segmentation in the endcaps.

The CMS tracking system, located inside the calorimeters, consists of pixel and silicon-strip layers covering $|\eta| < 2.5$. It provides track reconstruction down to $p_T \approx 100$ MeV/c, with a track momentum resolution of about 1% at $p_T = 100$ GeV/c. The tracking system and central calorimeters are embedded in a solenoid with 3.8 T

central magnetic field. A set of scintillator tiles on the inner side of the HF calorimeters, the Beam Scintillator Counters (BSC), provide triggering and beam-halo rejection.

Jet events were selected using the High Level Trigger, requiring a jet with $p_T > 50$ GeV/c, where the jet p_T value is uncorrected for the calorimeter response. The trigger becomes fully efficient for collisions with a leading jet with corrected p_T greater than 100 GeV/c. The large underlying event in heavy-ion collisions is subtracted on an event-by-event basis according to the procedure described in [4]. Jets are reconstructed using an iterative cone algorithm [5]. Jet corrections for the calorimeter response have been applied, as determined in studies for pp collisions [6].

To obtain a pure sample of dijets the following selection was applied:

- Leading jet: corrected jet $p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c and $|\eta_1| < 2$
- Subleading jet: corrected jet $p_{T,2} > 50$ GeV/c and $|\eta_2| < 2$
- Azimuthal angle between the jets of $\Delta\phi_{12} > 2\pi/3$ radians

Prior to jet finding on the selected events, a small contamination of noise events from uncharacteristic ECAL and HCAL detector responses was removed using signal timing, energy distribution, and pulse-shape information [7]. As a result, about 2.4% of the events were removed from the sample.

As a baseline for quenching effects the data are compared to dijets in PYTHIA, representing a sample with no quenching. To simulate the effects of the heavy-ion underlying event these dijet events are embedded into both real PbPb data and simulated PbPb data using the HYDJET generator [8]. Both embedded samples were propagated through the standard reconstruction and analysis chain.

Figure 1 shows distributions of $\Delta\phi_{12}$ between leading and subleading jets which pass the respective p_T selections. Figure 1 (a) shows pp data at 7 TeV compared to PYTHIA simulations, while Fig. 1 (b)-(f) show PbPb data in five centrality bins, compared to PYTHIA+DATA simulations. In general, the distributions agree quite well with the PYTHIA reference simulations. The more central events show an excess of events with azimuthally misaligned dijets ($\Delta\phi_{12} < 2$), compared with more peripheral events. A similar trend is seen for the PYTHIA+DATA simulations, although the fraction of events with azimuthally misaligned dijets is smaller in the simulation. The tails of these distributions in central events can be understood as the result of the increasing rate of fake jets or mismatched jets which come from another hard scattering. The effect is larger in data than in simulation, as the subleading jet can undergo a sufficiently large energy loss to fall below the 50 GeV/c selection criteria.

To characterize the p_T balance of the dijet, the asymmetry variable A_J is used, where $A_J \equiv (p_{T,1} - p_{T,2})/(p_{T,1} + p_{T,2})$. The A_J distribution for pp collisions at 7 TeV, plotted in Fig. 2 for pp (a), agrees well with PYTHIA. The centrality dependence of A_J for PbPb collisions can be seen in Figs. 2 (b)-(f), in comparison to PYTHIA+DATA simulations. Whereas the dijet angular correlations show only a small dependence on collision centrality, the dijet momentum balance exhibits a dramatic change in shape for the most central collisions. In contrast, the PYTHIA simulations only exhibit a modest

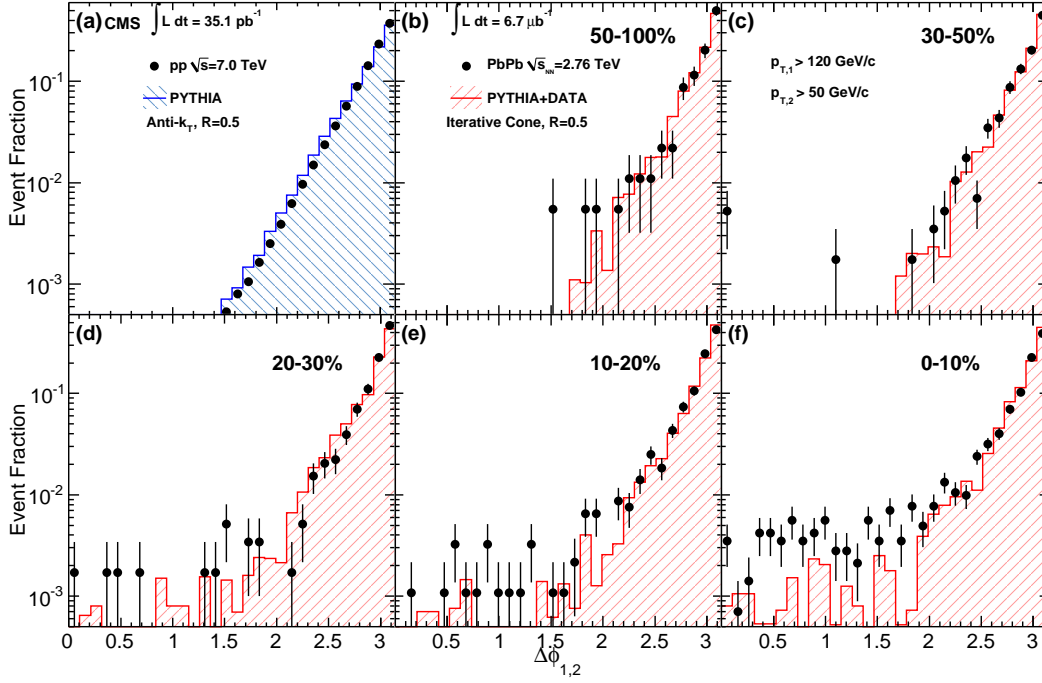


Figure 1. $\Delta\phi_{12}$ distributions for leading jets of $p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c with subleading jets of $p_{T,2} > 50$ GeV/c for 7 TeV pp collisions (a) and 2.76 TeV PbPb collisions in several centrality bins: (b) 50–100%, (c) 30–50%, (d) 20–30%, (e) 10–20% and (f) 0–10%. Data are shown as points, while the histograms show (a) PYTHIA events and (b)–(f) PYTHIA events embedded into PbPb data. The error bars show the statistical uncertainties.

broadening, even when embedded in the highest multiplicity PbPb events. The large rate of highly imbalanced jets indicates a strong jet quenching effect in which energy no longer reaches the calorimeters inside the jet cone. The absence of any modification to the $\Delta\phi_{12}$ distributions suggests that this energy is not transferred via hard radiation.

To fate of the “lost” energy was studied in greater detail by looking at correlations of the jets with charged tracks. The distribution of jet-associated tracks was studied as a function of both track p_T and ΔR from the leading and subleading jet axis (not shown). The background of combinatorial jet-track pairs was explicitly subtracted. It was found, however, that the size of the background limited the study to tracks with $p_T > 1.0$ GeV/c and $\Delta R < 0.8$. To pursue the fate of the lost energy outside of this domain, a more inclusive quantity was studied. The overall momentum balance in the dijet events can be obtained using the projection of missing p_T of reconstructed charged tracks onto the leading jet axis. For each event, this projection was calculated as

$$p_T^{\parallel} = \sum_i -p_T^i \cos(\phi_i - \phi_{\text{Leading Jet}}),$$

where the sum is evaluated over all tracks with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV/c and $|\eta| < 2.4$. The results were then averaged over events to obtain $\langle p_T^{\parallel} \rangle$. No explicit background subtraction is applied in this method, as the heavy-ion underlying event is not expected

to give a net p_T contribution along the leading jet axis.

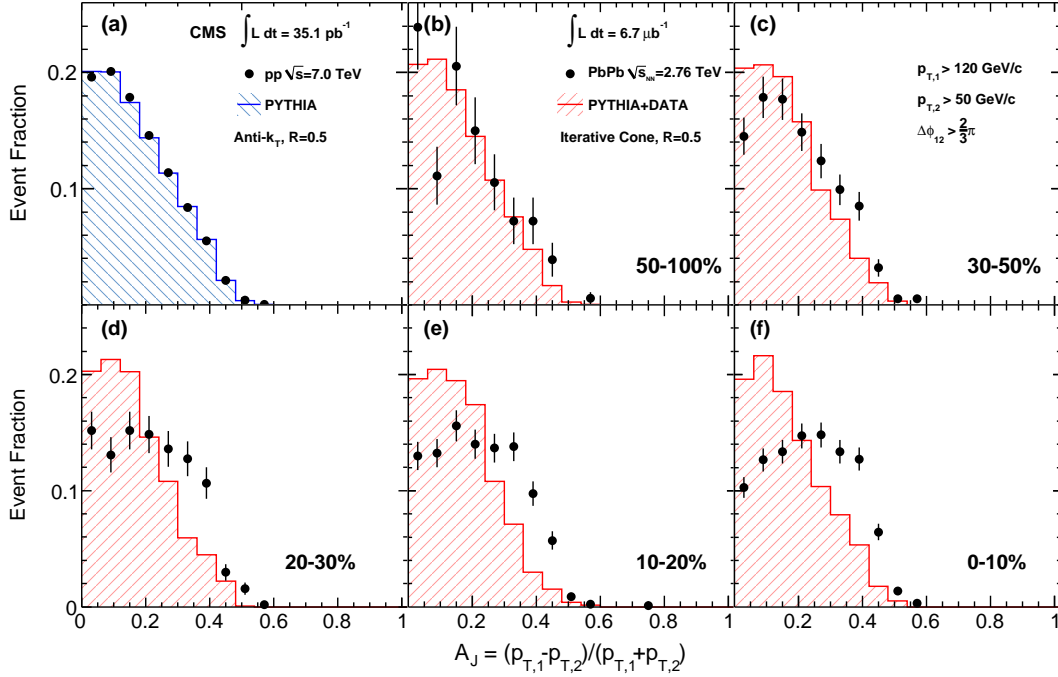


Figure 2. Dijet asymmetry ratio, A_J , for leading jets of $p_{T,1} > 120$ GeV/c, subleading jets of $p_{T,2} > 50$ GeV/c and $\Delta\phi_{12} > 2\pi/3$ for 7 TeV pp collisions (a) and 2.76 TeV PbPb collisions in several centrality bins: (b) 50–100%, (c) 30–50%, (d) 20–30%, (e) 10–20% and (f) 0–10%. Data are shown as points, while the histograms show (a) PYTHIA events and (b)-(f) PYTHIA events embedded into PbPb data. The error bars show the statistical uncertainties.

In Fig. 3, the solid markers show $\langle p_T^{\parallel} \rangle$ as a function of A_J for two centrality bins, 30–100% (left) and 0–30% (right). The top row shows simulation (PYTHIA embedded in HYDJET), while the bottom row shows PbPb data. Even for large A_J dijet events, the charged tracks above $p_T > 0.5$ GeV/c show no net momentum balance with respect to the leading jet axis in data or simulation. The figure also shows the contributions to $\langle p_T^{\parallel} \rangle$ for five transverse momentum ranges from 0.5–1 GeV/c to $p_T > 8$ GeV/c. The vertical bars for each range denote statistical uncertainties. For data and simulation, a large negative contribution to $\langle p_T^{\parallel} \rangle$ (i.e., in the direction of the leading jet) by the $p_T > 8$ GeV/c range is balanced by the combined contributions from the 0.5–8 GeV/c regions. Looking at the $p_T < 8$ GeV/c region in detail, important differences between data and simulation emerge. For PYTHIA+HYDJET both centrality ranges show a large balancing contribution from the intermediate p_T region of 4–8 GeV/c, while the contribution from the two regions spanning 0.5–2 GeV/c is very small. In peripheral PbPb data, the contribution of 0.5–2 GeV/c tracks relative to that from 4–8 GeV/c tracks is somewhat enhanced compared to the simulation. In central PbPb events, the relative contribution of low and intermediate- p_T tracks is actually the opposite of that seen in PYTHIA+HYDJET. In data, the 4–8 GeV/c region makes almost no contribution

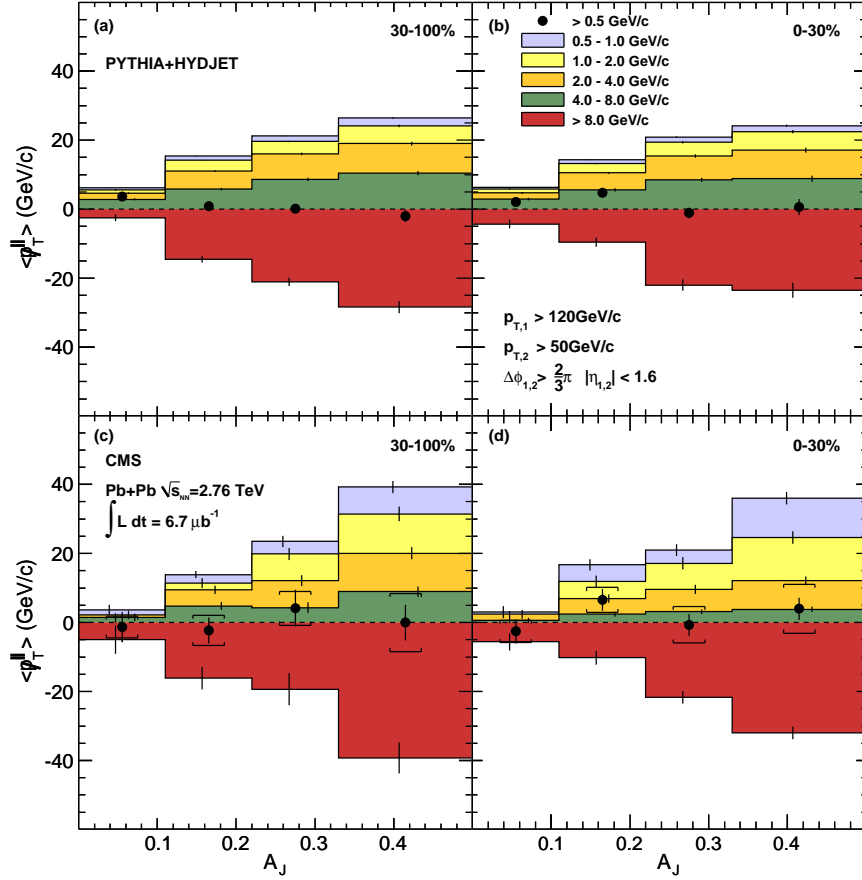


Figure 3. Average missing transverse momentum, $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$, for tracks with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV/c, projected onto the leading jet axis (solid circles). The $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$ values are shown as a function of dijet asymmetry A_J for 30–100% centrality (left) and 0–30% centrality (right). For the solid circles, vertical bars and brackets represent the statistical and systematic uncertainties, respectively. Colored bands show the contribution to $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$ for five ranges of track p_T . The top and bottom rows show results for PYTHIA+HYDJET and PbPb data, respectively. For the individual p_T ranges, the statistical uncertainties are shown as vertical bars.

to the overall momentum balance, while a large fraction of the negative imbalance from high p_T is recovered in low-momentum tracks.

Further insight into the radial dependence of the momentum balance can be gained by studying $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$ separately for tracks inside cones of size $\Delta R = 0.8$ around the leading and subleading jet axes, and for tracks outside of these cones. The results of this study for central events are shown in Fig. 4 for the in-cone balance and out-of-cone balance for MC and data. One observes that for both data and simulation an in-cone imbalance of $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle \approx -20$ GeV/c is found for the $A_J > 0.33$ selection. In both cases this is balanced by a corresponding out-of-cone imbalance of $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle \approx 20$ GeV/c. However in simulation, more than 50% of the balance is carried by tracks with $p_T > 4$ GeV/c, as might be expected from multijet production, whereas in data the balance is carried

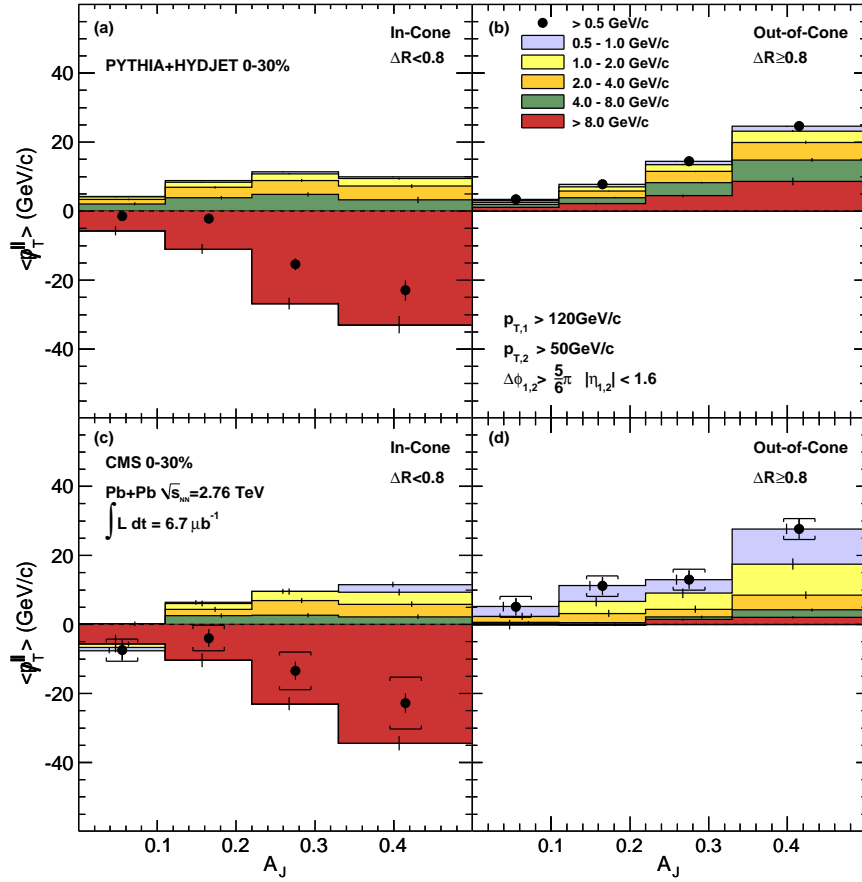


Figure 4. Average missing transverse momentum, $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$, for tracks with $p_T > 0.5\text{ GeV/c}$, projected onto the leading jet axis (solid circles). The $\langle p_T^\parallel \rangle$ values are shown as a function of dijet asymmetry A_J for 0–30% centrality, inside ($\Delta R < 0.8$) one of the leading or subleading jet cones (left) and outside ($\Delta R > 0.8$) the leading and subleading jet cones (right). For the solid circles, vertical bars and brackets represent the statistical and systematic uncertainties, respectively. For the individual p_T ranges, the statistical uncertainties are shown as vertical bars.

almost entirely by tracks with $0.5 < p_T < 4\text{ GeV/c}$.

To conclude, detailed studies of dijet in PbPb collisions have been performed. The increase in the frequency of imbalanced dijets in central events demonstrates that a sizeable amount of energy is transferred out of the subleading jet. The absence of any strong angular decorrelation of the jet pairs disfavors a scenario in which this energy takes the form of hard radiation. By examining the p_T balance of charged tracks with respect to the leading dijet axis, it was found that asymmetric dijet events are balanced when tracks are considered down to p_T of 500 MeV/c. In PbPb data this balance is dominated by tracks below $\sim 2\text{ GeV/c}$. By studying the balance of charged tracks both inside and outside a cone of $R = 0.8$, it was found that the majority of this energy is distributed at large angle with respect to the jet axis.

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